Back by Popular Demand! Fred Osborne to Cover EC Standards, Changes, and New Information

Fred Osborne, P.E., the speaker who attracted a record-setting attendance at the NEHES Spring Seminar, is returning to New England by popular demand.

A clinical faculty member with JCAHO since 1992, he will be at Cooley Dickinson Hospital (Northampton, MA) on Friday, September 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. NEHES members and non-members who can’t be there in person will have the chance to view and participate in the entire proceedings from at least one video teleconferencing site - Hanover, NH (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center) - and maybe more.

This is the first time a NEHES educational program has been video teleconferenced.

After an 11:30 a.m. lunch, Fred will begin his program at 12:45 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

His topics related to Sentinel Events Policy are:
- Background and history of the JCAHO Sentinel Event Policy;
- Impact on Environment of Care programs;
- Root cause analysis;
- Conflicts with state laws regarding discoverability;
- Consequences of not self-reporting;
- Joint Commission on-site review.

Questions from attendees and viewers will follow.

Topics for his second session of the day, also followed by viewer and attendee questions, will be:
- EC problem areas identified during JCAHO surveys;
- Current surveyor expectations;
- Future EC expectations and requirements.

“Fred has just returned from a week working with the JCAHO,” said NEHES President Kurt Peterson. “It’s a wonderful opportunity for everyone to get firsthand information.”

A survey of NEHES members last year showed that they would welcome video teleconferencing as a way to “attend” NEHES seminars without traveling great distances.

Seminar fees are: members, $75; non-members, $100, with $25 applied to the full cost of a one-year NEHES membership.

Attendees at Northampton and at the video teleconferencing sites will all receive all of Fred’s handouts, lunch, and afternoon break.

To Register Watch your mail for a special brochure Kurt is sending. If you haven’t received one, contact him by phone, (413) 582-2313; fax, (413) 582-2959, or by email, Kurt_Peterson@Cooley1.Hitchcock.org.

To Attend Seminar at a Video Teleconferencing Site

The same registration fees will apply to the Northampton site as well as to the video teleconferencing sites.

For further information about attending Fred’s presentation at a video teleconferencing site, contact the following:

- For Hanover, NH, contact Steve Cutter; phone, (603) 650-7148; fax, (603) 650-8978; email, steven.d.cutter@hitchcock.org

Additional sites may be arranged before September 18. Contact Kurt for an update.

Check Simmons Multimate Model

Don’t Give Patients in Older-Style Metal Beds a Jolt

Contributed by Joe Mona
Director of Engineering
Lawrence General Hospital
Lawrence, MA

If your facility owns any older-style Simmons beds — the Multimate model — don’t waste any time checking them for a jolt-giving defect.

Personnel at Lawrence General Hospital (Lawrence, MA) accidentally discovered that insulation in a power cord connected to one Simmons bed had become brittle and broken down over time, due either to cleaning, the hospital environment, or some other factor.

“The metal on this all-metal bed became energized. If you touched the bed you got a little jolt,” said Debra Lynch, Lawrence General biomedical technician. “One of the nurses discovered the situation at 2 a.m. one morning in a patient’s room. She and the electrician thought it was the light and moved the bed, but it wasn’t the light.”

“The defect can be corrected and use of the beds continued,” she said. “The insulation broke down inside, not on the outer jacket. It’s not something you would necessarily see. The inside insulation was very brittle and cracked on the relay control box power cord and the main power cord, which led to the hot wire and

the ground strap attached to the bed becoming energized. Normally the circuit breaker would have opened but the safety ground wire was also broken in the plug.”

Price and availability of replacement cords were obtained from Simmons and another manufacturer (B&D Manufacturing), and 150 cord sets were bought from B&D since they could supply them the quickest. All the beds are safe now.

“These beds are workhorses,” Debra said. “Some are at least 25 years old. Now we can continue using them safely.”
President’s Comments

NEHES’ 40th Year Brings Teleconferencing to Members

Welcome back one and all from your summer vacations (if you were able to squeeze the time in for one) or hopefully at least some long weekends. I hope all your chillers have been running smoothly and efficiently, your interior relative humidity is at appropriate levels, and your air quality is of the utmost in purity.

Video Teleconferencing Milestone

We are approaching the first video teleconferencing education program in NEHES’ wonderful history.


This is a must-attend event with the ability for you to ask Fred questions pertinent to your own facility, even if you aren’t at the program site through the beauty of technology.

Don’t Miss Fred Osborne

We hope to have three remote satellites available for you to choose if attending the actual presentation location is not possible. These remote locations have the ability for you to see and hear the presentation as well as ask your question directly to the presenter. This will be an ever-expanding way of presenting to our members.

We all have that “catch twenty-two” in our lives. You see a program like this that is so important to you and your institution but you just can’t afford the all-day or even overnight trip to attend. Now, through video teleconferencing, we hope that you can attend a location close to home after working during the morning.

Fred will also speak on E of C Problem Areas and Future E of C Expectations and Requirements. He is just returning from a week of working with the Joint so everything in this presentation is fresh off the presses.

40 Years of NEHES History

This is NEHES’ 40th anniversary and what a history we have. Think of the thousands of interactions between peers, problem solving to bring the public the most safe and efficient facilities possible for their use.

There is no doubt that these health care facilities that we design, construct and maintain are some of the most knowledge-intensive structures made.

How do we get this knowledge? By attending the programming you all have asked for in our surveys. By calling an acquaintance you have met at a NEHES function and you remember had the same issue. By listening to the founding fathers of this Society when they are talking - their years of experience can’t be replaced. We will be celebrating our 40th anniversary at the Fall Conference. Don’t miss this one, folks. It will be hard to beat.

ASHE Conference: Great!

Part of my duties as your president is to attend the annual ASHE Conference so we make sure NEHES is continuing on the right path as far as matching ASHE’s goals and objectives. This year the Conference was held in Denver, Colorado between the Adam’s Mark Hotel and the Denver Convention Center. More than 2,600 attendees converged on Denver for this event. And what an event it was.

Educational opportunities began at seven to eight o’clock every morning with networking going on into the early hours if you wanted. I made sure I experienced it all. What an experience it was. If you have never been to an ASHE conference, you’ve got to go. I think it will be hard to improve on the one held in Denver, but if it came to Boston, we sure could try. The speakers were great and I’m proud to say that NEHES played a big role in the programming again this year. Bob Loranger, Jack Gosselin, Don Garrison, and Mark Cappello all put on presentations of one kind or another.

Kurt Peterson is the Project Manager at Cooley Dickinson Hospital (Northampton, MA).

Junior at the University of New Hampshire

Coast Guard Veteran Wins This Year’s NEHES Scholarship

The NEHES Scholarship Committee, chaired by J. Derek Seeley, has selected Joshua Morong of Dover, NH as the 1998 recipient of the $2,000 NEHES scholarship.

Derek, the Safety Professional at Exeter (NH) Hospital, and other members of the New Hampshire Healthcare Engineers Society serving on the committee chose Joshua because of his academic achievements and his exposure to biomedical engineering design and medical equipment. He is a junior majoring in electrical engineering at the University of New Hampshire.

Joshua served six years in the U.S. Coast Guard, working as an electrician’s mate aboard two ships. He performed periodic maintenance on sickbay medical equipment and corrected equipment electrical malfunctions.

He will design an interface card allowing a personal computer to be used as a digital oscilloscope for his senior year project.

He has also worked in biomedical engineering design. Two of the three design projects assigned by his Advanced Electronics II class have involved medical applications. The designs were: a circuit to monitor the airway impedance of a patient suffering from obstructive sleep apnea, and a dural phase meter used to measure the impedance of skin grafts.

The NEHES Scholarship Committee will present the award to him in October at the University.

Each year, members of the NEHES chapter organizing that year’s Fall Seminar form a committee to select a scholarship winner from a college in their state.
Fall Seminar Education Program Was Designed With You in Mind!

Calling all members and vendors - you've still got time to be part of the first off-shore NEHES Fall Seminar November 9-12 at the Castle Harbour Marriott in Bermuda.

"Buildings for the Future - Setting the Standards for an Enhanced Healthcare Environment" will bring together several distinguished speakers, including:
- Dean Sammet, Associate Director, Department of Standards, JCAHO;
- Robert Solomon, P.E., Chief Engineer, Building Fire Protection and Life Safety Department, NFPA;
- Anthony Verricchia, FASHE, President, ASHE;
- Ted Gentry, Wrenn Associates;
- Philip Fine, P.E., Savage Engineering, Inc.;
- David Provan, P.E., Provan & Lorber, Inc.;
- Raymond Zambuto, CCE, FASHE, Technology in Medicine;
- David Sokol, The Garland Company, Inc.;
- David Landman, R.A., Theriault/Landman Associates, Inc.;
- Robert Turk, Landis & Staefa, Inc.;
- Ode Keil, Safety Management Services, Inc.;
- A representative from Simplex Time Recorder.

Topics range from construction project delivery systems, facilities management, the JCAHO Environment of Care, and clinical engineering strategies to commercial roofing, the millennium bug, and a building systems legacy program.

Other seminar highlights are:
- A greeting by Neil Crane, Director of Engineering at Bermuda Hospital;
- Huge vendor show;
- Panel discussion on NFPA and JCAHO issues, led by Dean Sammet and Robert Solomon, with a welcome presentation by Joseph Martorii, ASHE Executive Director. Attendees will be able to ask questions about their facilities and current issues;
- Golf tournament on a championship course designed by Charles Banks;
- Spousal program with ample time for local sightseeing and activities;
- Dinner dance with island theme and presentation by Anthony Verricchia and award presentations;
- NEHES annual meeting and past presidents' breakfast.

Members of the New Hampshire Society of Healthcare Engineers are planning the event.

How to Register
If you haven't received a seminar registration package, call Mike Buxton, Director of Environmental Services at Healthsouth Rehabilitation, Concord, (603) 226-9800. Members should reserve their place and spouse's place immediately. A certain number of hotel rooms with group discount rates have been reserved for the seminar. Attendees may also remain at the resort through the weekend at conference rates, subject to availability of rooms.

Non-members may attend; $25 of their registration fee is applied to NEHES membership.

Are Your Favorite Vendors Going?
Tom Humphrey, Seminar Chair and Director of Engineering at Monadnock Hospital, encourages all NEHES members to do their part and ask their favorite vendors to sign up for the seminar.

Members may fax names and contact phone numbers to Jim Woods, (603) 228-7197, and he will follow up.

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### Program at a Glance

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<td>Registration Day</td>
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<td>7:00 - 8:30 a.m. NEHES Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Past Presidents Breakfast</td>
<td>8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast for Members, Spouses &amp; Vendors</td>
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<td>6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Social Hour</td>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Golfers Breakfast and sign-in</td>
<td>8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast for Members, Spouses</td>
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<td>8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast</td>
<td>Technology Show and Lunch</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Golf Tournament (Awards to follow)</td>
<td>4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Vendor &amp; Engineer Social Hour</td>
<td>1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Education Sessions</td>
<td>1:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEHES Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Social Hour Welcome, Bermuda Hospital Engineer</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Dinner</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Dinner</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Annual Banquet Formal Dance/Dinner and Awards</td>
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Guenther Ohler of CHES
Former Chapter President is Still Involved After His Term is Done

Guenther Ohler has worked his way up through the ranks of health care in what used to be the traditional route for advancement - learning one trade after another, moving to different departments, then landing a management position. Now the Manager of Engineering Services at Veterans Memorial Medical Center (Meriden, CT), he supervises 23 employees working in Biomedical, Power Plant, Maintenance, and Grounds. He joined Veterans Memorial in 1979 after working as an electrician in his native Germany, then in construction and in HVAC in New York. He spent 22 years at the Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital New York Medical College, where his last position was Director of Engineering. Ever since 1982, Guenther has relied on the Connecticut Hospital Engineers Society (and on NEHES since 1986) for educational programs and information from other members. "Our field must have networking and education," Guenther said. "You must glean information from other members, find out what problems they have, what they did right and wrong."

He regularly attends CHES meetings and has taken his turns at elected office - membership chair, treasurer, vice president, and president. He is the father of a registered nurse and makes time for church work and flower gardening. "We chose Guenther because he is a longtime member of CHES, and he has, over the years, shown a tremendous dedication not only to the organization but to helping his fellow hospital engineers with advice," said CHES President Steve Carbery, Director of Facilities Management at The Greenwich Hospital (Greenwich, CT).

"His insights have been invaluable, and he has always been willing to share his experiences and successes. We always look to him as a tremendous resource to the organization. His standards have always been high, his reputation exemplary, and above all, he's always been a good friend to all of us."

In the everchanging world of health care, Steve said, Guenther is "one of those individuals who has always been rock solid for us. We felt that it was time to shine the spotlight on him."

South Shore Engineers Celebrate Their 43rd Anniversary This Year

The South Shore Chapter of NEHES has an anniversary of its own to celebrate this year, making it even older than NEHES. Now in its 43rd year of continuous operation, the South Shore Hospitals Engineers Society first met on April 13, 1955 with five engineers present. George Vera, then engineer at St. Luke's Hospital (New Bedford, MA), thought engineers and their hospitals would benefit from sharing information, so he hosted the meeting.

This first gathering was not just a formality - George gave everyone lunch, a tour of plant operations and procedures used at St. Luke's, headed a discussion of operation and maintenance problems, presented an outline for the engineers' club, and then was voted chairman after an election of officers.

By the time the five founding fathers adjourned, they had already chosen a name and set their next meeting date, place, and agenda.

Although health care has been through some wrenching changes since then, the South Shore chapter is "an ongoing group," according to President Rich Peters, who is Director of Engineering and Maintenance at the New Bedford site of South Coast Hospitals Group and a NEHES member. "They've made a great effort to keep going. The speakers try to keep us up to date on everything, code, hvac, etc. We still have an installation dinner in September every year. It's still a viable and creative group, somewhere to get information."

Each meeting begins with a roundtable discussion, where each member talks about what's going on at their facility. "This is probably why the bylaws haven't been done because things have been running so smoothly for so long," Rich said. "It's always been an open and friendly business, and strong and viable since 1955."

Carrying on a Nantucket Island tradition, Dick Moran attends almost every meeting by boat and hosts an educational seminar and other activities one weekend a year on the island, Rich said. Dick is the Director of Operations at Nantucket Cottage Hospital.

The 30 South Shore members represent 20 healthcare facilities; some facilities have multiple members. Membership includes Directors of Facilities and Directors of Maintenance from 15 hospitals, one clinic, and two longterm care facilities. One member is a consultant and two are retired, for a total of 30 members.

Rich joined the group 11 years ago, introduced by his predecessor, Tom Galligan. "My own personal goal for the chapter is to keep members more informed, to develop a letter each month and tell them what's coming up. Each month a vendor makes a presentation and sponsors the lunch," Rich said. "We make sure it is an educational experience so it's not just a sales pitch. Between seven and 14 members attend each meeting in Lakeville."

The chapter also plans to upgrade its bylaws and attract new members, he added. Secretary-treasurer is Jack Kelly, Director of Facilities at Deaconess Glover Hospital (Needham, MA). Jack and Bob Bunzick of East Harwich are sharing the job of chapter representative to the NEHES board. Bob retired from Toby Hospital (Wareham). Jack joined both the South Shore group and NEHES in 1991 "for the communication with my peers and for the help and guidance in all of the criteria that governs the hospital industry." He has been a chapter president.
New Members Join NEHES for Educational Programs and Networking

William Godburn is Associate Administrator of Service Operations at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, 540 Litchfield St., Torrington, CT 06790 (860) 496-6471. In health care since 1984, he has taught learning disabled and emotionally disturbed children, and worked as a bill collector and as an assistant patient accounting manager. He is responsible for Food and Nutrition, Environmental Services, Laundry, Safety, Security, Maintenance, and Renovations. He joined NEHES at his engineers' urging and hopes to complement his financial background with new knowledge gained from NEHES seminars and members. He is looking forward to Fall Seminar 1998 in Bermuda.

William Hunt is Chief Engineer at Tufts-New England Medical Center, 1 Kneeland St., Box #2, Boston, MA 02111 (617) 636-8822. He has worked in engineering ever since he enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17. After providing maintenance and operations services to healthcare institutions in the Boston area, he was recruited by Bob Loranger, ASHE president-elect and NEHES secretary, for his current position. NEMC eliminated outsourcing of maintenance services in 1993, saving $200,000 the first year and $150,000 per year in operations alone. Bob recommended that he join NEHES, and he has already attended one Fall Seminar.

Frank Provenzano is the Plant Facilities Engineer at High Meadows, 825 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT 06517 (203) 281-8300. He was a self-employed contractor before coming to High Meadows, a psychiatric hospital for abused children, six years ago. "I love the job because it's different every day," he said.

David Smith is Director of Facilities Management at St. Antoine Residence, 400 Mendon Rd., North Smithfield, RI 02890 (401) 767-3500. First an accountant, then a business manager, he supervised the demolition of the old St. Antoine Residence and the construction of a state-of-the-art, 260-bed facility. He was then named to his present position. "It makes me a little more dangerous to the vendors," he said. He joined NEHES to "resolve some of the issues I'm not familiar with. I need advice from my peers."

Donald W. Spear is the Supervisor of Plant Operations at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, 30 Locust St., Northampton, MA 01060 (413) 582-2311. After working in the heating and cooling industry, he came to Cooley Dickinson nine years ago as a fireman. He oversees the power plant, all heating, cooling, and delivery systems, medical gas systems, and grounds.

Gerald Stadnicki is the Director of Risk Management, Safety, and Security for Mercy Hospital, 271 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01102-9012 (413) 748-9000. After working at the Safety Council of Western Mass, he joined Mercy 20 years ago as loss control manager. He is a NEHES and Western Mass member. "We're all in the same situation with these new standards. We need to maintain our proficiency and see what solutions other members have."

Ronald Viarengo is the Director of Safety/Security at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, 540 Litchfield St., Torrington, CT 06790 (860) 496-6683. He was Hartford Hospital's Assistant Director of Security, and joined Charlotte Hungerford in 1992. He joined NEHES "just looking for direction - I do have a lot of dealings with EC standards and I work closely with that department."

Brian Zuikowski is assistant Director of Plant Engineering at Masonic Geriatric Healthcare Center, 22 Masonic Ave., Wallingford, CT 06492 (203) 949-4407. His 450,000-square-foot facility is adding two buildings totalling 100,000 square feet. "The geriatric population is the fastest-growing segment of the population. You can't stand pat in this area, you either move ahead or fall behind," Brian said. He feels fortunate to have found a position which combines his education in business with his mechanical expertise.

Leonard Hayward
Honorary Member, Dies in Rhode Island

Word has been received of the death in Portsmouth, RI of Leonard W. Hayward, honorary NEHES member.
In 1958, Leonard represented Rhode Island in the formation of NEHES.
From 1958 to 1969 he was the Administrative Engineer at Roger Williams General Hospital. In 1969 he joined Newport Hospital as Administrative Engineer.
He was promoted to Vice President for Plant and Support Services in 1980, and retired in 1994.
Vendors Supporting Fall Seminar

An impressive roster of vendors will support Fall Seminar 1998 in Bermuda.

To date, gold sponsors are: Provan & Lorber, Technology in Medicine, Wrenn Associates, The Garland Company, William A. Berry & Son, Landis & Staefa, Simplex Time Recorder, Savage Engineering, Theriault/Landman Associates, the Macmillan Co., and Bread Loaf Construction.

Silver sponsors are Nalco Chemical Co. and Russelectric.


Training Videos Sought for Library

Steve Cutter, NEHES Education Chair, is looking to update and expand the NEHES training video library. The end product would be a list of videos indexed by category, with a brief description and who to contact to borrow them.

If you have training videos that you would either donate or lend, please provide Steve with a brief description of the film, including subject, length, and quality on a scale of 1 to 5. He can be reached by email at steven.d.cutter@hitchcock.org or by fax, (603) 650-8978.

Was This Newsletter Forwarded To You?

Be sure to keep your address current and get your NEHES mailings on time.

Please contact Kurt Peterson if you have changed your address. He can be reached by fax at (413) 582-2959. His email address is: kurt_peterson@Cooley1.Hitchcock.org.